

RELEASE NOTES: 2020 SIPP

Revision History		
Date	Change	Updated by
10/28/21	Initial version	A. Smith

Version 1.0 (Released 10/28/21)

The U.S. Census Bureau released public-use data from the 2020 Survey of Income and Program Participation (2020 SIPP). The data are available in SAS, Stata, and pipe-delimited text formats. Accompanying the data release are several supporting materials, including:

- (1) An online, interactive [SIPP Codebook](#) listing all variables and their definitions
- (2) An updated [Users' Guide](#) to assist data users and provide background on the survey
- (3) The 2020 SIPP [instrument specifications](#) providing question wording and response categories
- (4) A [data dictionary](#) PDF providing metadata for all variables in the 2020 dataset
- (5) [User notes](#) describing nuances and other data issues to be aware of
- (6) [Crosswalks](#) that map 2020 SIPP variables to their analogues in the 2019 SIPP, and vice versa

The SIPP provides comprehensive information about the income and program participation of individuals and households in the United States. The survey collects data and measures change for many topics, including economic well-being, family dynamics, education, assets, health insurance, child care, and food security. SIPP is a longitudinal survey – following the same set of respondents over a multi-year period – allowing researchers to understand how these contexts change over time.

The 2020 SIPP faced unique data collection challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to government restrictions, mandated stay-at-home orders, and health and safety concerns for both Census interviewers and sampled households, the 2020 SIPP switched to telephone-only interviewing in March of 2020. This led to lower-than-average unit response rates nationally for the 2020 SIPP. For additional technical documentation and more information about SIPP data quality, please visit the [Technical Documentation](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation.html) page at <<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation.html>>.

The 2020 SIPP data release materials are available on the [SIPP website](https://www.census.gov/sipp) at <www.census.gov/sipp>, as is other information about the survey and a link to download the data. Additional announcements, including notifications of version updates, will be made as necessary through the SIPP website and the SIPP email notification system. To be added to the SIPP email notification system, visit the “[Contact Us](#)” page on the SIPP website at <<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/contact.html>>.